

# INGALLS' HOME MAGAZINE.

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## JUNE.

SO sweet, so sweet the roses in their blowing,  
So sweet the daffodils, so fair to see;  
So blithe and gay the humming-bird a-going  
From flower to flower a-hunting with the bee.

— *Nora Perry.*

And what is so rare as a day in June?  
Then, if ever, come perfect days;  
Then Heaven tries the earth if it be in tune,  
And over it softly her warm ear lays.

— *Lowell.*

## WOMEN'S INFLUENCE.

IT is very often the case that mothers and sisters complain of the length and dullness of the winter evening, and I hear them remark, "Oh! the boys will go out; you see, it is so dull for them at home, and, of course, they like a little company and to smoke, and that sort of thing." Of course they do, and the strange thing is, that they cannot have the pleasant chat and smoke at home, so that the mother and sisters who complain so much may share in the general amusement. Whose fault is it that evenings at home are so dull in some houses? Happily we need not say in all. I know there are cases where the fault lies with the men, but in an equally large number it lies, alas! with the women and girls. It has often struck me what an immense influence evenings at home have upon the sons of a family. How bright and cheerful some homes are; how delighted are the boys to get home, often bringing a friend with them, for they are always sure of a welcome, as a wise mother knows well that if they cannot bring companions home they will go out to them. Mothers and sisters—

all you who clamour for women's rights, and greater influence in the State—have you not here a power which the highest statesman would envy you? Do you not bring up and influence the boys and men? Are they not taught at your knees? Is it not from you that they should learn their highest code of honor and morality? Oh girls! do not mind if the boys do find fault and tease. They only do it because they are so fond and proud of you, that they want you to do better than other fellows' sisters. Do you feel inclined to sit and read all the evening, or spend it in some other unsociable way? Remember that for your brothers, God has given you in charge the highest work that woman is capable of performing. To you He has entrusted that great gift of influence, which is so mighty for good or evil. To you they ought to be able to look for love, confidence, and sympathy in the many troubles that are sure to beset a man's footsteps in the world. Do not think the younger boys beneath your notice; they are very keen to remark your good and bad qualities, and when they are men will remem-

ber that Nannie was always such a dear little sis, when they were in any boyish scrape; or that it was never any use asking Bess to do anything for them as she was always disagreeable.

When the male part of the family come in either to tea or late dinner, it is the duty of the ladies to be bright and smiling, and to do everything in their power to keep them in the house to which they have returned, perhaps through temptations which you safe at home, warmly sheltered from the world, never dream of. Do they come in cross and tired? What wonder? if that but provokes you to be more loving and attentive to them; for are they not tired through endeavoring to keep you in that secure home, which they only ask you to make bright and cheerful for them? If you do not smile for them at home, there are plenty out of doors who will do so; and if sons or brothers are driven by sullen indifference, selfishness, or any other disagreeableness to pass their evenings out, the blame, if evil come of it, will lie with those whose duty it was to make them welcome at home.

I must say a word about making people comfortable in their own way. It is no use to play and sing to a man who hates music, and then complain that he is not pleased with the efforts you have made to entertain him; nor to affect to detest smoke when you know he cannot be happy of an evening without his pipe or cigar. Of course there are cases where really delicate people cannot bear smoke, and where these are, surely some other room can be used to smoke in. I have noticed, however, that many people smilingly bear the odor of tobacco and even appear to enjoy it when smoked by strangers and acquaintances, but they affect to be disgusted if father or brother smoke at home. The rooms, they tell you, smell so of it. It is not necessary for them to do so, if a little care and common sense is exercised; and even suppose they do smell, is it not better to have the family sitting-room smell of smoke than to pass evening after evening alone, wondering where the smokers are, and with whom?

When trouble comes how naturally do we look to father and sons for help, and if we

have taught them to regard us as antagonistic to their simplest wishes, and indifferent to their happiness in this world and the one to come, how can we expect or ask them to take up for us the burden we are unable to bear, or preserve to us that domestic felicity which we have tacitly refused to share with them? Do you not understand, that as the men and boys belonging to you rise in the world so do they raise you; and if you refuse to give the boy the help which is so needed, and which he would not ask or accept but from mother or sister, he will not become the man of whom you may say with pride, he is my son or brother? Listen to what you hear them say about other girls, and take heed that no girl's brother shall say of you what you dislike or are shocked to hear of others. Brothers and sons are generally given to speaking plain truths of their female relatives; and though at times unpalatable, and perhaps unjust, their remarks, if taken amiably and reconsidered, may be found to have been made from a feeling of affectionate interest in you, and may, if acted upon, save you from making some of the blunders women, without male relatives to advise them, often fall into.

Do not snub boys; if you wish them to be manly, treat them like men. Defer to their opinions sometimes, even if you do think your own the best. I have found through life that boys from twelve to seventeen years of age are very shrewd advisers. The world is new to them and they have acute perceptions, and give their experiences truthfully if bluntly. Many a girl would be saved from a wretched married life did she but know what her young brother knows of her intended husband; and if there was that confidence between them, that it is the duty of the mother and sister to promote and cherish, many a lad would be saved in the first downward step to evil, which, ever descending, will precipitate him and all belonging to him in lasting misery and disgrace. See, then, how mighty is the power for good or evil which you wield. Let who will guide the world, but God grant that good mothers and sisters may guide the boys. For "the boy is father to the man."

*Selected.*

